

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 13209 011121Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20

HA-05 IO-14 EUR-12 /108 W

-----031432 012321Z /14

R 011107Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9455

UNCLAS MANILA 13209

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: MARCOS DROPS CHARGES AGAINST "SIGNS OF THE

- TIMES" AND "COMMUNICATOR" CASES

REF: MANILA 13021

1. MANILA MEDIA REPORT THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS JULY 29 ORDERED THE MILITARY NOT TO PROSECUTE 24 PERSONS, MOSTLY RELIGIOUS, ACCUSED OF INCITING TO SEDITION AND SCURRILOUS LIBEL AGAINST THE GOP THROUGH PUBLICATION OF CATHOLIC NEWSLETTERS "SIGNS OF THE TIMES" AND "THE COMMUNICATOR." AS OF TODAY, HOWEVER, THE ACCUSED HAVE NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED THAT CHARGES HAVE BEEN DROPPED. THESE PUBLICATIONS HAD BEEN CLOSED BY THE GOP IN DECEMBER 1976, AND PRELIMINARY CHARGES HAD BEEN FILED, BUT NONE OF THE ACCUSED WAS FORMALLY DETAINED. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT CASES WERE BEING PREPARED FOR PROSECUTION IN MILITARY COURTS, BUT MARCOS ORDERED PROSECUTION STOPPED "IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF RECONCILIATION AND NATIONAL UNITY." THREE OF THE ACCUSED WERE AMERICANS, AND ONE WAS BELGIAN. EXCEPT FOR FATHER REUTER, NONE OF THE ACCUSED FOREIGNERS IS PRESENTLY IN THE PHILIPPINES.

2. ACCUSED IN THE "SIGNS OF THE TIMES" CASE WERE: FR. A.B.

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PAGE 02 MANILA 13209 011121Z

OLAGUER, S.J.; FR. LOPE S. CASTILLO, M.S.C.; FR. FLORANTE CAMACHO, S.V.D.; BRO. ROLANDO DIZON; FR. BENIGNO MAYO, S.J. (THEN CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MAJOR RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS OF MEN OF THE PHILIPPINES); FR. BENJAMIN ORTAZON, C.M.; FR. JAMES NOONAN, M.M. (AMCIT); FR. CARLOS VAN OOTEGHEM, C.I.C.M. (BELGIAN); SISTER MARY CHRISTINE TAN, R.G.S. (THEN CHAIRWOMAN OF ASSOCIATION OF MAJOR

RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS OF WOMEN OF THE PHILIPPINES); SR. CARMELA CARPIO, M.M.; SR. AVELINA ALCANESES, F.M.M.; SR. ANGELA ANSALDO; SR. IRENE DABALUS, O.S.D. (CURRENT AMRSWP CHAIRWOMAN); AND SR. EMELINA VILLEGAS.

3. ACCUSED IN THE "COMMUNICATOR" CASE WERE: FATHER JAMES REUTER, S.J. (AMCIT); SR. ELIZABETH FARLEY, R.S.C.J. (AMCIT); MARY AURELIE CORTEZ; SR. SARAH MANAPOL; VIRGINIA M. GALDO; NELIA R. PACULAN; BLESSIE ANGELES; ISAGANI DIAZ; AND JAIME JAMERO. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRIALS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
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Draft Date: 01 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
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